

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #21]

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INTERVIEW

with

Vito Cacciola

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by

Merton R. Lovett

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“As well as remembered”

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. . .

(from memory)

. . .

"Sure, the wedding was fine. I stay only short while. Everybody maka good time. Some peoples maka whoopee.

"Me, I hava only one glass de wine champagne. I watcha myself when I drinka champagne. Once in New York I hava my first, what you call it, experience. It tasta sweet and gentle like de cider. Believa you me, de evil sneaka up on me lika cat. I is happy, but soon I don't remember nothing.

"Of course de bride looka lovely. I don't know whata she wear. She looka like angel. Every woman looka like angel when she geta marry. She maka de man mucha proud and happy. He say, 'I gota most beautiful woman ever liv-ed in world.' He's dream lika in sleep. Sometime he waka up and say, 'Where is de angel? Where is de angel what I marry?'

"If I getta married, I wanta a woman with intelligence in de head and goodness in de heart. Maybe she is not so pretty as de picture. I have seen too much pretty women raisa de devil.

"De bride and groom maka no journey. They hava de what you call it? Yes, honeymoon in his mother's house. Whata difference does it make? They maka much love one place so good as another.

"No de Italians wanta no single beds. Whata good to get married with single beds?"

"De groom coma to visit me yesterday. He say de marriage is mucha nice. He tells me you get married too. He say his wife is better what he thought."

"I say, 'Waita some more. How you feel, when she shouta that she wanta some new dress and some shoes? Why don't you getta her de money? How much more you worka on W.P.A? How much more do you and she liva with your mama? That you maka monkey from her. Thata you is de bum.'

"What did he reply? He say, 'You maka joke, Vito. My wife she's sweeta like de sugar. She talk like blessed Saint.'

"Often have I said, Mr. Lovett, thata for bride to live with her mother de law is bad. I see it maka de fight. Seea dat house. It belong to de Silverias. They been married fifty one years. They hava ten childrens. They thinka their boys and girls will helpa them in old age. Whata happen? Whata they do?"

"Three of de boys bringa their brides home. They hava de babies. De old man he is worka hard to feeda them. De old woman she fighta all day with de younga womans."

"She say de boys wives is no good. They can'ta cook so good. They can'ta wash. De babies they maka spoil-ed. They 3 weara silk stockings. All de time they beg, 'Give me dime; giva me money for movies; giva me new shoes.' Huh. Is we made of de money?"

"Oh, yes, the young man what invita me to wedding, he's worka on W.P.A. orchestra in Lynn. It's softa job."

"Joseph is a nica musician. Sometimes he playa with me. De orchestra maka fine concerts."

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“Do you know peoples is funny? The orchestra playa de best music. They plays like de maestro. But no ones visit de concert. Only their wives and families heara de music.

“It costs nothing to hear W.P.A. concert. That's why peoples staya at home. If for de concert they must pay fifty cents or dollar, they woulda go. What costa nothing peoples think is no good — rotten. What costa much they say it is fine; it is skillful; it in de art.